

MEDICATION BRIDGE

The Medication Bridge Program was initiated Wolfeboro, NH in January of 2001. The program is staffed by volunteers and remains an all-volunteer program. We operate under the umbrella of the Foundation for Healthy Communities which is based in Concord, NH. The program has seven volunteers, most of whom assist 4 hours each week. Overall, an average of 65 volunteer hours each week is contributed to the program. Of the 40 plus programs in the state, Medication Bridge is one of two programs in the state of New Hampshire that is staffed totally by volunteers.

The first patient was enrolled in the program in January of 2001. As of August 31, 2004 we have over 332 patients enrolled. During 2001, in excess of \$183,000 in free medications was provided to enrolled patients. In 2002, in excess of \$540,000 in free medications was provided to enrolled patients. In 2003, over \$1,000,000 in free medications was provided to patients we serve. The program has grown beyond all expectations. We expect to provide patients with more than \$1,200,000 in free medications this year.

We rely totally on medical providers, Tri-county Community Action and word of mouth to bring patients to the program. The number of patients and the value of free medications provided are a clear testament to the need of this type of program in the area.

The software and hardware provided to the Medication Bridge Program were adequate when the program first started. As the patient base grew, we encountered increasing difficulty in meeting the needs of the patients because the software and the hardware lacked the capacity to keep our pharmaceutical company application database up-to-date as well as our ability to keep up with the increasing volume of ordering and reordering demanded by the needs of patients we serve.

During the 2003 year we served 16 residents from Alton, providing them with 253 medications valued at \$59,810.

We currently serve 22 residents from Alton. Since January 1, 2004, residents from Alton have received 204 medications valued at \$40,795. At the present rate, we would expect to provide Alton residents with between \$60,000 to \$65,000 in free medications this year.

Jack Drinkwater, Coordinator
Medication Bridge Program

Alton
Alton Bay

Patients	22
% of Total Served	6.6%

Medications Received	204
% of Total Medications Received	6.2%

Value of Medications Received	\$40,795
% of Total Value Received	5.0%